Hollister Hills District
Geocaching Policy

Overview:

The purpose of the Hollister Hills District Geocaching Policy is to successfully manage the popular activity of geocaching within the Hollister Hill SVRA (see www.geocaching.com for a description of geocaching activities).The term geocaching represents similar activities such as letter boxing and bench marking, in addition to geocaching.

It shall be the policy of Hollister Hills District to encourage positive use of its parks and resources. Geocaching can be a positive recreation activity when practiced under established conditions and procedures.

Authority:

Hollister Hills District reserves the right to remove any caches that have been determined to be inappropriate because of location, content or has an adverse impact on wildlife, vegetation, visitors, or natural or cultural resources. In the event the district removes a cache, the district will attempt to contact the owner. Hollister Hills District will handle the cache as lost property as described in Department of Parks and Recreation Lost and Found Policy. Hollister Hills retains the right to remove a cache that it feels for any reason is deemed inconsistent with the mission and/or statutes of the California State Park System.

Procedures:

A permit is not required for the placing or searching for geocaches on the lands of Hollister Hills SVRA. Placing and searching for geocaches must only take place during normal park hours, in park areas open to the public.

Cache Placement

1. Caches shall be registered on the internet with Geocaching.com and comply with www.geocaching.com guidelines.
2. Caches must not be placed so as to encourage the development of new "volunteer" trails.
3. Caches shall not be placed in locations that will encourage trail damage or cause erosion.
4. Caches shall not cut or modify vegetation, geographical/geological features, park signs, fences, posts, trails, trail markers or district buildings/facilities.
5. Caches shall not be placed on or near a potentially hazardous location.
6. Caches shall not interfere with wildlife or visitors.
7. Caches must be maintained by the owner. Caches that have been abandoned and not maintained will be considered litter and removed.

8. Caches shall not be placed within designated historic or cultural resources areas, nor cause any travel near natural, historically and/or culturally sensitive areas.

Cache Containers and Contents
1. All Caches must be clearly labeled on the exterior as a "geocache." All caches shall include contact information and a standard geocache "stash-note" inside, explaining the activity to an unintentional finder.
2. Contents shall be of a family friendly nature and shall not contain inappropriate, hazardous or illegal materials such as: flammables, explosives, controlled substances, pornography or food.
3. Containers shall be capable of withstanding the various environmental conditions present at Hollister Hills.
4. Containers must be capable of remaining secure in a fashion that would not allow any wildlife to access the contents of the cache.

Off-Highway Vehicle Provisions
1. Geocaches shall be placed where there is ample space to pull-off vehicle(s) from the trail so as to avoid a collision.
2. Geocaches shall not be placed in a hazardous location. For example: on the trail, around a blind corner, etc.

Hollister Hills District encourages all participants in this hobby to practice the "Cache In Trash Out" (CITO) policy described on the website: www.geocaching.com.

Procedures for District Staff:
1. If district staff discovers a compliance issue regarding a cache that is an immediate hazard to life, property, vegetation, or wildlife species, they are authorized to immediately remove the cache, and notify the appropriate staff.

2. If district staff finds a compliance issue regarding a cache that does not require immediate resolution, they should inform the assigned district staff member who works with the district geocache liaison. Necessary actions should be taken by the district geocache liaison to resolve the issue.